

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.       A method for alerting a user of an incoming phone call, the method  
2 comprising steps of:

3                   receiving notification of the incoming phone call with an identifier  
4 associated with the incoming phone call;

5                   detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

6                   correlating the identifier with a pre-recorded voice announcement; and

7                   playing the pre-recorded voice announcement.

1                   2.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of receiving the pre-recorded announcement  
3 for each phone call.

1                   3.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 1, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of  
3 the following steps:

4                   correlating a phone number with a pre-recorded voice announcement;

5                   correlating a portion of the phone number with a pre-recorded voice  
6 announcement; and

7                   correlating a caller ID name with a pre-recorded voice announcement.

1                   4.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

3                   recording the pre-recorded voice announcement; and

4                   receiving a selection that helps correlates the pre-recorded voice  
5 announcement to the identifier.

1                   5.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 4, further comprising a step of storing the pre-recorded voice  
3 announcement with consumer phone equipment.

1                   6.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the pre-  
3 recorded voice announcement.

1                   7.       The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 1, wherein the playing step comprises playing the pre-recorded voice  
3 announcement with an earpiece.

1                   8.       A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
2 instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 1.

1                   9.       A method for alerting a user of an incoming phone call, the method  
2 comprising steps of:

3                   recording a voice announcement;

4                   receiving a selection that helps correlate the pre-recorded voice  
5 announcement to an identifier;

6                   receiving notification of the incoming phone call that indicates the  
7 identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

8                   detecting the identifier associated with the incoming phone call;

9                   correlating the identifier with a voice announcement; and

10                  playing the voice announcement.

1                   10.      The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of receiving the announcement for each  
3 phone call.

1                   11.      The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 9, wherein the step of correlating the identifier comprises at least one of  
3 the following steps:

4                   correlating a phone number with a voice announcement;

5                   correlating a portion of the phone number with a voice announcement; and

6                   correlating a caller ID name with a voice announcement.

1                   12.      The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of storing the voice announcement with  
3 consumer phone equipment.

1                   13.     The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 9, further comprising a step of interrupting a phone call to play the voice  
3 announcement.

1                   14.     The method for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as  
2 recited in claim 9, wherein the playing step comprises playing the voice announcement  
3 with a speaker separate from an earpiece.

1                   15.     A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
2 instructions for alerting the user of the incoming phone call as recited in claim 9.

1                   16.     Telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-  
2 recorded voice announcement, the telephone equipment comprising:  
3                   a sound digitizer that converts a sound to the pre-recorded voice  
4 announcement;  
5                   a caller ID function that detects an identifier associated with an incoming  
6 phone call;  
7                   a correlator that associates the identifier with the pre-recorded voice  
8 announcement; and  
9                   a speaker that plays the pre-recorded voice announcement after the pre-  
10 recorded voice announcement is correlated to the identifier.

1                   17.     The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-  
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, further comprising an announcement  
3 storage database that stores the pre-recorded voice announcement.

1                   18.     The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-  
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, wherein the announcement storage  
3 database is remotely located with respect to a location of the speaker.

1                   19.     The telephone equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-  
2 recorded voice announcement as recited in claim 16, further comprising a web interface  
3 for receiving at least one of a criterion and a voice announcement.

1                   20.     The equipment for announcing phone calls with a pre-recorded  
2 voice announcement as recited in claim 16, wherein an earpiece comprises the speaker.